arrival to the valley during the period. Upto 26th of July 2006, 10,317 foreign tourists visited the valley this year as compared to 9,777 during the period last year.

(b) The State Government in their report have mentioned that the position of terrorist attacks on tourists during the last six months are as under:

Year	No. of attacks	Killed	Injured
2006 up to 30.07.2006	09	15	55

(c) The steps taken by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Security Forces in an endeavor to make the security environment progressively safe for tourists include-deployment of separate tourist police and enforcement wing at Srinagar/Jammu and other tourist places to look after and protect the interests of the tourists; adequate deployment of Security forces/State police with regular patrolling and anti-sabotage checks around the tourist spots and roads leading to such places; permanent security arrangements at the Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra and its proximity; arrangement of special security arrangements for pilgrims visiting Shri Amarnath Ji Cave, Pahalgam and Kheer Bhawani; organising special FAM tours of travel trade from Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Hyderabad to Kashmir from 2nd to 6th of August 2006.

Simplification of licence to guest houses

†1611. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to simplify the licencing process for guest houses in view of the inadequate number of hotels for tourists in States including the capital of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Taking into the account the shortage of hotel rooms in the country, Ministry of Tourism has already introduced a voluntary scheme for the approval of Guest Houses which would encourage all the existing Guest Houses and new ones on the anvil to avail of this scheme whereby approval would be given to those Guest Houses who maintain standardized facilities and amenities.

Shortage of hotels for tourists

†1612. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy shortage of basic infrastructure and necessary facilities for achieving targeted increase in the number of foreign tourists in the country by promoting their arrival here;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is also a shortage of one star to five star hotels for promoting tourism industry in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of planning of Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In view of the acute shortage of hotel rooms, Ministry of Tourism is in regular touch with the State Governments and other land owning agencies for creating land banks for construction of hotels in the country. The State Governments have been advised to follow investor-friendly land policies and single window approach for promoting hotel projects and also for allotting sites on revenue sharing basis, granting extra FSI/ FAR for hotels, permitting extra commercial usage in the hotels etc. In order to enhance the inventory of rooms, the Ministry of Tourism has also formulated guidelines for approval of Guest Houses, Apartment Hotels, Time Share Resorts and Bed & Breakfast establishments. Besides, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance to State Governments & Union Territories to improve tourism-related infrastructure.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.